


## Midewin Workdays and Events January-February 2013

FREE Public Tours and Presentations	Volunteer Days for Restoration Volunteer Days for Educators	Volunteer Training Workshops	<b>Special Events</b>	 Children are always welcome, but these activities are more appropriate
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Date	Time	Meeting Location	Activity
12 January  <b>Saturday</b>	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Cleaning the annual native seed harvest with specialized equipment and manually
17 January Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Workday
17 January Thursday	7:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Lecture Series Presentation. <i>Everglades of the North: Grand Kankakee Marsh</i> . Showing of the new documentary followed by question and answers with the film producers.
<b>21 January, Mon.</b>			<b>OFFICE CLOSED FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR'S BIRTHDAY (OBSERVED)</b>
24 January Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Workday
26 & 27 January Saturday & Sunday	9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Starved Rock State Park (Utica)	<b>Eagle Fest 2013</b> Come visit the Midewin booth!
28 January Monday	11:45am – 2:45pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: LJ Stevens, 4th grade. New Volunteers are invited to watch and learn.
29 January Tuesday	11:45am – 2:45pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: LJ Stevens, 4th grade New Volunteers are invited to watch and learn.
30 January Wednesday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Trail Maintenance: Midewin's trail stewards need some helping hands along our community trails. Normally the last Thursday of the month; <b>this time switched to Wed.</b>
31 January Thursday	7:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Lecture Series Presentation. <i>Peacock Prairie: A photographic journey</i> . Join photographer, Frank Mayfield for an artful tour of a tiny gem in the necklace of urban wilderness in the Chicago area located at the James H Woodworth Prairie Preserve.
2 February Saturday	8:00am – 5:00pm	University of Illinois at Chicago	<b>Wild Things Conference 2013</b> : registration still open. <a href="http://www.habitatproject.org/WildThings2013">http://www.habitatproject.org/WildThings2013</a>
7 February Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Workday
14 February Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Workday
14 February Thursday	7:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Lecture Series Presentation. <i>Reptiles of Midewin</i> . Meet some critters and Holly Zak of Research for Reptiles, LLC and learn the importance of herpetology.
<b>18 February, Mon.</b>			<b>OFFICE CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY</b>
21 February Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Workday
28 February Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Trail Maintenance: Midewin's trail stewards need some helping hands along our community trails. Join the stewards on the last Thursday of every month.
28 February Thursday	7:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	<i>Northern Illinois Coal Mining: 1850s-1974</i> . Midewin sits near an edge of the great IL coal field. Find out about the work force, mine types, social life in coal towns, labor struggles and major mine disasters. Presented by Richard Joyce, former Wilmington HS teacher.

**To RSVP for workdays:** Please contact Gemma Guenther, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, by phone at 815-423-2148, email [gguenther@fs.fed.us](mailto:gguenther@fs.fed.us) or use the Volgistics system.

**To RSVP for Lecture Series:** Advance registration is required to guarantee your seat by calling our main number 815/423-6370 or email [Midewin\\_RSVP@fs.fed.us](mailto:Midewin_RSVP@fs.fed.us). Doors will open at 6:30pm and lectures begin at 7pm.

**\*\* General Restoration Workdays-** The activities for these days won't be planned until a couple days beforehand and will be based on need and weather conditions. Activities may include seed cleaning, brush cutting, herbicide treatment, invasive plant pulling, seed broadcasting, and greenhouse planting. Please be prepared for outdoor or indoor work, as we may do more than one activity on a workday.

Workdays and Events do fill up. Knowing how many volunteers or visitors will attend, allows our staff to better organize the event and we can inform you of Changes or Cancellations. For Workdays: Midewin will provide tools, safety gear, and water. Please bring your own lunch. Dress in layers with sturdy field boots.



## Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

30239 South State Route 53, Wilmington, IL 60481

Phone: 815-423-6370

Web: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/midewin>

### Volunteer Activities

**Conservation Educator** – An important part of Midewin's mission is to provide opportunities for environmental learning. Students of all ages, from early elementary to college, come to Midewin to participate in environmental education activities and conservation service projects. For many of these students, a trip to Midewin may be their first outdoor learning experience. Volunteer educators assist by leading small group discovery activities and supervising stewardship activities such as planting, seed harvest, and invasive plant removal.

**Prairie Restoration Assistant** – Restoration volunteers work in the native seed beds planting, weeding, mulching and harvesting seed. Cleaning seed, planting plug trays, clearing encroaching shrubs from prairie and herbiciding are other tasks that you can find restoration volunteers performing. Restoration volunteer days are scheduled on every Thursday and occasional Saturdays year round. Check the website for a calendar of events.

**Ecological Monitors** – Monitoring is an important part of the restoration process. Land managers need to know the health of plant and animal populations in an area before, during, and after a restoration project. Volunteer monitors, working independently or with Midewin staff, collect and record data on specific plant or animal populations using scientifically based methods. This data is used to plan and evaluate each restoration area. Existing Midewin monitoring programs include birds, frogs, butterflies, streams, rare plants and floristic quality in restored areas.

**Interpreters** – Volunteer Interpreters work with staff to deliver programs via escorted tours; bike and horse rides; hikes; and special programs. These programs are designed to promote awareness; knowledge and understanding of the natural and cultural history of Midewin; to provide insight into the native habitat restoration process; and to promote the mission of the US Forest Service. Welcome Center Host duties include meeting and greeting visitors, answering questions and distributing information about Midewin. Responsibilities also include handling gift shop sales. This position is great for outgoing volunteers that don't mind being indoors for a 4 or 8 hour shift.

**Trail Maintenance/Stewards** – Midewin's trail systems are being extended and improved every year. Recreation sites such as trailheads, picnic sites, accessible viewing platforms, and interpretive waysides are being developed. Trail maintenance volunteers, working in teams or with Midewin staff will perform routine maintenance on these trails and facilities. Maintenance activities may include mowing; brush removal and herbiciding; repairing bridges and other structures; installing signs, benches, and tables; and other tasks all intended to contribute to a quality recreation experience and ensure public health and safety. Trail stewards are assigned designated sections to monitor for safety and manage the trail surface and 10 foot areas to each side.

PLEASE CONTACT THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR FOR MORE INFORMATION

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The Nature Conservancy  
**Office at U.S. Forest Service, Midewin**  
Volunteer Coordinator

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